

James Marlow

## Criticism Of CIA Should Be Pondered

WASHINGTON — The FBI years ago thoroughly infiltrated the American Communist party and, through the information and exposure which followed, was the major factor in reducing the party to a shell.

But suppose the FBI had not infiltrated — after all, the party represented itself as a political grouping — and today communism here had a far greater membership and was considered a menace to national security.

The FBI would have been publicly condemned — and by now might have been replaced by some new agency — for it is responsible for obtaining information essential to the nation's domestic interests.

The FBI's job is in this country. Its opposite number, the Central Intelligence Agency, has the same responsibility as the FBI but its field is the world outside the United States.

Now it is being criticized for subsidizing the National Student

Association, the oldest and largest student organization in the United States, with perhaps as much as \$3 million between 1952 and 1965.

Eugene Groves, NSA president, said the CIA funds had been used to help finance the group's international activities, including sending student representatives to student congresses abroad and funding student exchange programs.

Groves said "the relationship apparently originated because the CIA believed that a strong American national union of students acting internationally was in the national interest."

This was said to be the CIA's main purpose throughout — to combat Communist-financed youth organizations which, like NSA and similar Western groups — were not publicly sponsored by government and thus appeared to be "students only."

Some of the CIA money went as undercover payments to past NSA officials in yearly sums of \$500 to \$2,500. But NSA has now severed connections with the CIA.

Officials of the CIA, the most secretive government agency, are saying nothing. But a former CIA director, Allen W. Dulles, who knew all about the arrangement, said, "We obtained what we wanted" in return for payments to NSA.

He said NSA representation at international student conferences threw a damper on Communist influence at such meetings.

Nevertheless, CIA is being criticized for infiltrating the campus. President Johnson has instructed some government officials to form a policy that would prevent CIA or any other government agency from endangering the integrity and independence of American educational institutions.

But — the CIA was confronted with the possibility that Communist youth organizations might dominate in the international student field.

So it had to make a choice: Do what it did, try to achieve the same result in some other way, or do nothing although it is busy all over the world in a thousand ways to prevent, reduce or eliminate Communist control or influence.

This raises a question: If you were in charge of the CIA, what would you have done? One thing is sure: If the Communists did get control of the international student groups, and if this was due to the failure of the CIA to do anything, and if this fact became known, the CIA would be soundly condemned here at home.

Sen. Gale McGee, D-Wyo, defended the CIA against what he termed "short-sighted criticism." He told the Senate, "We are trying to survive in a jungle world in which no holds are barred on the part of those with whom we must contend."

(Associated Press)

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